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Coaching Youth Basketball

Having fun and learning respect are all part of the game plan



Coach Jeff praises two of his players.

Volunteer coaches are the backbone of youth sports in our country. Here in Carlsbad, 500 youth in grades 3-8 play league basketball every year thanks to people like Jeff Swift who sign up to coach them.

The Carlsbad program is designed to teach kids basketball fundamentals, while keeping it fun. Coach Jeff explains, "One of the things we tried to do last year was keep the kids active. If we did drills with ten kids we would sometimes split into two groups so there was less lag time between actually doing the drill and waiting to do it. The kids enjoyed playing against each other the most so we always allowed 15 or 20 minutes at the end of the practice to scrimmage - sort of a reward after they ran the drills."

It's not just the players who benefit from this relationship. "Coaching helped me to get back in contact with a younger generation," reveals Jeff. "It was great to see the kids running and having fun. I really looked forward to each practice or game to watch each individual child grow and have the team experience."

Children look up to their coaches. Coaches like Jeff are teaching more than basketball. They are Teaching Respect, Unity and Sportsmanship through Teamwork using the award-winning Carlsbad TRUST program.

"I really looked forward to each practice or game"

The first place Celtics celebrate their winning season.



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Opportunity Granted

The city turned to their pool of talented volunteers when they needed someone to assist with the Opportunity Grants program.



Greg Chenoweth helps families get recreation scholarships.

This program offers a \$150 grant to children from low-income families living in Carlsbad to allow them to participate in any of the city's recreation programs, including sports, classes and pre-school.

Greg Chenoweth, a volunteer at The Crossings Golf Course and former human resource manager, was a perfect fit for the position. Greg reviews the applications, verifies eligibility, and forwards his recommendations to the parks and recreation department.

"Today I got to call four families and tell them they had been approved for the grants," commented Greg. He then meets with the families to help select and sign up for their chosen programs. "I thought I would be a gopher rather than a major part of this program. I suggest volunteers explore other opportunities. It's almost more fun to move around," Greg recommended".

He hopes to help spread the word to those who might not yet be aware of the program. For more information on the opportunity grants, call Greg at 760-602-7095.

Thanks to the Opportunity Grants program, deserving children no longer have to stand on the sidelines.



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This fall Jeff is coaching again. Practice begins in November and league play runs through March. Contact Sue at Sue.lrey@Carlsbadca.gov if you want to help kids grow.

Volunteer Opportunities

Holiday at the Rancho

Saturday, Dec. 5, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park • 6200 Flying L. C. Lane

Helping out with the cookie decorating area, craft booth or food service will definitely put you in the holiday spirit. Let Rudolph's "nose so bright" guide you into the holiday season.

To volunteer, contact Natalie at Natalie.Alegre@carlsbadca.gov or call 760-602-7511.

Latin Jazz Guitar Concert

Sunday, Dec. 6, 1:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Cole Library Community Room • 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive

Greet attendees and oversee refreshments, then enjoy the performance by well-known Latin jazz guitarist Diego Mondragon.

Contact Sue at

Sue.Irey@Carlsbadca.gov

or call 760-434-2929 for

more information.



If you're interested in shooting some hoops yourself, the following Carlsbad parks have basketball courts:

- **Aviara Community Park** 6435 Ambrosia Lane.
- **Calavera Hills Community Park** 2997 Glasgow Dr.
- **Pine Avenue Park** 3333 Harding St.
- **Poinsettia Community Park** 6800 Hidden Valley Rd.
- **Stagecoach Community Park** 3420 Camino de los Coches

“All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them.”

Magic Johnson

Around Carlsbad

Holiday at the Rancho
Saturday, Dec. 5, 5 – 8 p.m.

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park • 6200 Flying L.C. Lane

Create treasured memories at this classic holiday celebration featuring your favorite red-nosed reindeer. Enjoy holiday entertainment, a tree lighting ceremony, crafts, cookie decorating, and a very special visit by Santa himself. Get some holiday shopping done at the handmade craft boutique, and bring a blanket and chair for a holiday movie shown outdoors on the big screen.

Admission includes access to crafts, Santa, cookie decorating, horse and carriage rides, entertainment and the outdoor movie. Merchandise, food, beverages, and photos with Santa are available for sale. Receive a \$3 discount when tickets are purchased before 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2. Pre-sale tickets: \$5. Free for children ages 3 and under. Tickets at the door are \$8. Purchase tickets online at www.carlsbadca.gov. Parking available at Carrillo Elementary with entry into the park through the school field.

Mini Golf Fore the Library
Sunday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Dove Library • 1775 Dove Lane



Gather family and friends for Carlsbad's newest event. Upstairs, downstairs and through the stacks. Great fun for adults and kids. The cost per round is \$5 for children 12 and under and \$10 for adults. Tickets will be sold at the library on the day of the event. All proceeds benefit the Carlsbad Library and Arts Foundation. <http://www.carlsbadlibraryandartsfoundation.org>



**CITY OF
CARLSBAD**

Volunteer Resources

www.VolunteerinCarlsbad.net

**To expand your volunteer involvement citywide, contact Sue Irey, Volunteer Coordinator
sue.irey@carlsbadca.gov or 760-434-2929**